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| 1. Mr Muston | B.415 |
| 2. Mr Morley Parry | A.421 |
| 3. Mr Perry | A.405 |

Annual Report

**On the Health of the
Borough of Newport,
Isle of Wight,
for the year 1968**

BY

ALISON M. BATTEN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

PRESENTED TO THE CORPORATION
THROUGH THEIR COMMITTEE.

Newport, I.W.:

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COUNTY HALL

NEWPORT, I.W.

Tel. Newport 2261

*To His Worship the Mayor, and to the Aldermen and
Councillors of the Borough of Newport, Isle of Wight*

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1968.

The Birth Rate rose slightly from 14.4 to 14.8.

The Death Rate rose from 15.3 to 16.4.

The Infantile Mortality Rate again fell, from 17.6 to 16.1.

The number of deaths from all forms of cancer fell from 56 to 48. Of these, 8 male and 1 female deaths were attributed to lung cancer.

Deaths from coronary artery disease rose from 46 to 57.

Two deaths from suicide and two deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis were notified.

No cases of diphtheria, food poisoning, pneumonia or poliomyelitis were notified.

Water Supplies

The water supply to the Borough continued to be satisfactory as regards purity and quantity.

The fluoride content of the water is less than 0.1 parts per million.

Removal of Persons in Need of Care and Attention

An ill old lady, living alone in deplorable conditions was removed to hospital by an order made under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

Housing

I would particularly direct your attention to the housing report on page 11. I agree entirely with everything said by the Housing Manager and in particular to his remarks on under-occupation and the necessity for a more rigid Points Scheme. A good Points Scheme is the best way, it seems to me, of not only being fair, but more important, being *seen* to be fair. There are very few cases where rehousing is necessary on purely medical grounds and a more rigid Points system would enable these to be seen in better perspective in combination with other needs.

Refuse disposal

Both this Borough and the Urban District of Cowes have had problems of refuse disposal and during 1968 it was decided to set up a joint committee to consider the feasibility of establishing a pulverisation plant to be used by both Districts. Tipping of refuse may be cheap but it is also insanitary and a potential health hazard as it encourages flies to breed in it and rats to infest it. It is in the long run likely also to be difficult to find in this area suitable tipping places. A pulverisation plant will not only largely eliminate the health hazards but will also drastically reduce the amount of tipping space necessary.

Acknowledgements

During the greater part of 1968 Dr. D. W. Quantrill acted as your Medical Officer and I am sure you would wish me to thank him on your behalf for so willingly carrying out this extra duty. I should also like to thank the Public Health Inspectors and other Staff of the Health Department for their efficient work and loyalty.

Finally may I express to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee my appreciation of their help and support during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

ALISON M. BATTEN

Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS 1968

Medical Officer of Health—

JOHN MILLS, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S. (ENG.), L.R.C.P.
(LOND.), D.P.H. (died 5th April 1968)

ALISON M. BATTEN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (commenced
2nd October 1968)

Senior Public Health Inspector and Meat and Food Inspector

F. K. AZE

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board as Public Health Inspector

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and other Foods

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Smoke Inspector

Public Health Inspector

H. S. BULL

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board as Public Health Inspector

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and other Foods

Meat Inspector

G. WOODS

Certificate in Meat Inspection issued by the Royal Society of Health

Diploma in Food Hygiene issued by the Royal Society of Health

Clerical Assistant

D. BIRBECK

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	15,530
Population (Registrar General's Figures) ...	20,990
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1968) per rate books	*6,835
Rateable Value (as at 1.4.68)	£831,484
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (1967-68) ...	£3,232

**Inclusive of 436 Crown dwellings from 1st April 1967*

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population	14.8
Comparative factor	1.2
Comparative Birth Rate	17.8
Still Birth rate per 1000 total (live and still births)	22.0
Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population	16.4
Comparative factor	0.63
Comparative Death Rate	10.3
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1000 total (live and still births)	Nil
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—	
All infants per 1000 live births ...	16.1
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	17.5
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	48
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	Nil

BIRTHS

The total number of live births was 311 of which 285 were legitimate and 26 illegitimate. The live birth rate was 14.8 per 1000 living; the birth rate for England and Wales being 16.9.

DEATHS

The total number of deaths was 344 which gives a death rate of 16.4 per 1000 of the estimated resident population, the death rate for England and Wales being 11.9.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

The Infantile Mortality rate was 16.1 per 1000 registered live births; the rate for England and Wales generally was 18.3.

CAUSES OF DEATH

Under the Eighth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases deaths are now classified under a total of 65 headings. Causes of death attributed to Newport residents only are given below. The nomenclature of certain categories has been amended from previous years to agree with the revised Classification.

<i>Cause</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal diseases	1	—
Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	2
Tuberculosis, other	—	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	1
Malignant neoplasm—stomach ...	2	—
Malignant neoplasm—lung, bronchus	8	1
Malignant neoplasm—breast ...	—	8
Malignant neoplasm—uterus ...	—	3
Malignant neoplasm—other	13	13
Diabetes Mellitus	—	1
Anaemias	1	—
Other diseases of nervous system, etc.	6	4
Coronary disease, angina	29	28
Other forms of heart disease ...	18	16
Cerebrovascular disease	18	59
Other diseases of circulatory system	1	11
Influenza	1	8
Pneumonia	17	22
Bronchitis and Emphysema ...	8	4
Other respiratory diseases, including asthma	3	4
Peptic ulcer	1	—
Intestinal obstruction and hernia ...	1	2
Other diseases of digestive system ...	3	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
Congenital anomalies	—	2
Other causes of perinatal mortality	2	1
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	4	4
Motor vehicle accidents	1	—
All other accidents	2	3
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries ...	1	1
All causes	142	202

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR 1968

AGE PERIODS	Measles	Dysentery	Scarlet Fever	Acute Meningitis	Whooping Cough	Erysipelas	
Under 1 year	5	1	—	—	1	—	
1 and under 2	18	—	—	—	—	—	
2 " " 3	25	—	—	—	—	—	
3 " " 4	26	—	—	—	1	—	
4 " " 5	34	—	—	—	1	—	
5 " " 10	65	2	3	—	2	—	
10 " " 15	2	2	—	—	—	—	
15 " " 20	2	1	—	1	—	—	
20 " " 25	—	—	—	—	—	—	
25 " " 35	—	—	—	—	—	—	
35 " " 45	—	1	—	—	—	—	
45 " " 55	1	—	—	—	—	—	
55 " " 65	—	—	—	—	—	1	
65 " " 75	—	—	—	—	—	—	
75 years and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	178	7	3	1	5	1	

Other Notifiable Diseases—Nil

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, ETC.

Inspections under the Housing Acts	...	...	...	271
Inspections under the Public Health Acts	...	...	...	259
Drainage	...	...	...	231
Caravan Sites	...	...	...	29
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	8
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	10
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	6
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	20
Factories	...	...	...	7
Rent Act	...	...	...	—
Food Preparation Premises	...	...	...	94
Foodshops and Stores	...	...	...	100
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	4
Bakeries	...	...	...	5
Milk and Dairies	...	...	...	12
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	885
Rodent Control (Supervisory Visits)	...	...	...	15
Animal Boarding Establishments	...	...	...	1
Pet Shops	...	...	...	3
Shops Act	...	...	...	38
Clean Air Act	...	...	...	—
Noise Abatement	...	...	...	13
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	405
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	...	...	...	16
Knackers Yard	...	...	...	11
Water Supply	...	...	...	6
Civic Amenities Act	...	...	...	27
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	240
				2716
Statutory Notices Served—Public Health Acts	...	...	...	2
Informal Notices Served	...	...	...	101
Informal Notices complied with	...	...	...	83
Nuisances Abated	...	...	...	20
Complaints Received	...	...	...	129
Water Samples				
(a) Drinking Water	...	...	...	106
(b) Swimming Pools	...	...	...	16

FOOD**Meat Inspection.****CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND
CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART**

	Cattle Excl'ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. Killed	2080	723	2142	3762	20208	—
No. Inspected	2080	723	2142	3762	20208	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	21	84	27	324	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	636	250	11	250	805	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	30.6	37.6	4.4	7.4	5.6	—
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	195	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	0.96	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5	3	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	5	3	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
		Tons	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.	
Total meat condemned ... ..	...	28	12	2	9	
Other Foodstuffs ... ..	...	1	8	0	25	
		30	0	3	6	

In addition 4,487 tins of miscellaneous foodstuffs were destroyed

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION

The following slaughterhouses were licensed for the year 1968:

1. Heytesbury Slaughterhouse, Worsley Road, Newport, occupied by F.M.C. (Meat) Ltd.
2. 35-43 Scarrots Lane, Newport, occupied by Bennett & Hamilton Ltd.

Eight hundred and eighty-five visits were made to slaughterhouses in connection with meat inspection and licensing.

The number of slaughtermen licensed by the Council was 21.

KNACKER'S YARD

The following knacker's yard was licensed for the year 1968:

Park Green Farm, Forest Road, Carisbrooke, occupied by A. and D. Biles, Trafalgar Cottage, Union Street, Newport.

During the year the owners carried out a considerable programme of repair and improvement at the request of the Council.

FOOD PREMISES

The following table sets out the food premises in the Borough broadly divided into thirteen categories.

<i>Food Trade</i>	<i>No. of premi- ses</i>	<i>Fitted to comply with Reg. 16</i>	<i>Reg. 19 to comply with appli- cable</i>	<i>Fitted to comply with Reg. 19</i>
Bakehouses	4	4	4	4
Bread and Cakeshops	4	4	4	4
Butchers	16	16	16	16
Canteens	3	3	3	3
Confectioners Shops (including ice cream)	21	21	20	20
Dairies	6	6	6	6
Fishmongers	4	4	4	4
Fried Fish Shops	5	5	5	5
Greengrocers	15	15	15	15
Grocers	54	54	54	54
Hotels	7	7	7	7
Licensed Premises	54	54	54	54
Cafes & Restaurants	34	34	34	34

Regulation 16 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 relates to the provision of personal washing facilities for food handlers and Regulation 19 deals with facilities for washing food and equipment.

Thirteen complaints were received from customers about foods of various kinds and of these, eight concerned the presence of extraneous material. Legal proceedings were instituted in respect of some cheese and also a bottle of milk sold by retail. The defendants were fined in both cases.

The majority of food premises in the Borough are well equipped and satisfactorily run, although some of the buildings used are very old and not ideal. Inefficient layout and lack of storage space are a constant problem and there is the added difficulty of attracting and retaining suitable staff. The preparation and sale of food is steadily becoming concentrated in the hands of large companies with multiple retail outlets; it is arguable whether this is altogether desirable from the customer's point of view, but as respects hygiene such companies generally provide a high standard of premises, fittings and equipment.

HOUSING

Four unfit houses were dealt with during the year; an undertaking not to let for human habitation was accepted in one case and closing orders were made in three others.

Ten new properties were completed, and we may now have seen the end of Council house construction by traditional methods. The next phase in the building programme is to be a project of 58 three-bedroomed houses built by the industrialised method. The contract already has the blessing of the Minister and work is expected to commence very soon. Six of the new dwellings will be offered to the "Keyworkers" of a local factory, and the remainder are to provide new homes for the occupants of unfit dwellings included in the Council's slum clearance scheme. It is certain however that the Housing Officer will have to arrange a number of transfers to this new accommodation in order to make available some small units for the elderly folk who are often found to be the occupants of old, dilapidated property.

With the accent this coming year on slum clearance, the rehousing of applicants on the ordinary Waiting List will be, broadly speaking, limited to the number of casual vacancies occurring. In 1968 only 31 properties changed hands, and eleven of these vacancies arose out of the deaths of tenants, and seven others by tenants purchasing private houses. Among the vacancies there were only 12 three-bedroomed houses and the others were small units including five at Wallace Court.

The problem of under-occupation worsens continually, and there are now over 90 large houses which are occupied by single persons or elderly couples whose families have grown up and left home. These houses should now be housing young families and the situation will not improve until the Council embarks on a large scale programme of small dwellings to which the middle aged and elderly can be transferred. Most of the under-occupied houses are in the Whitepit Lane area, and I would welcome an early start on the redevelopment of the Field House site, and other small sites in the district. We are informed that it is easier to get the Minister's consent to build three-bedroomed houses than it is to construct the dwellings we need to solve, economically, the Council's housing problems. It seems to me to be ludicrous to build large houses when we have so many almost empty. Many of the tenants will happily move to smaller accommodation, and there would be little need for com-

pulsory transfers. It would be heartless perhaps to move an aged couple against their wishes, and these people could be left alone. Many tenants rehoused in the early post-war years and still only in their early fifties have already lost their families, and it is this age group who would welcome a change.

The majority of the Council's stock of pre-war houses are worthy of modernisation. Perhaps by the end of the coming year we shall hear of changes in the law relating to Improvement Grants, and possibly schemes could be considered to bring some of these properties up to a good standard. We still have numerous Council houses with outside W.C.'s, inadequate electric light and power services and poor space heating arrangements. There seems to be a vast difference in the standards of Newport's Council houses, with the sophisticated modern houses at Pan at one end of the scale and the pre-war terraced types at the other. The present rent structure allows a differential of only ten shillings per week between the old and the new types (although the houses shortly to be built may be a little dearer than those constructed in the last year or two).

With the housing shortage being so acute, I think that the only fair method of allocating houses is by strict adherence to the Points Scheme, except in cases where families are likely to be made homeless as a result of legal action by their landlords. The County Welfare Department should be urged to make accommodation available for problem families made homeless through their own irresponsibility.

The Points Scheme appears to be a very fair one, and it is based on a model scheme recommended by the Minister. It was designed to take into account the hardships of overcrowding, infirmity and shared homes. The time spent on the Waiting List is not a factor affecting Housing Need, but those families who have used their initiative to find homes for themselves rather than live with "in-laws" should not be forgotten. They are often living in accommodation which they cannot really afford, and from time to time their cases ought to be considered or they will never be rehoused. At the present time there is always someone who appears to be more urgent than they are. They must get disheartened to see others, married more recently, get houses before they do.

By the Autumn of 1969 the Council's housing stock will number 1,071 units. Of these 750 will be family-type dwellings with three or more bedrooms and flats will total 133. There are only 18 ordinary bungalows on the estates, which is disappointing because this type of accommodation is so useful in solving the housing problems of the incapacitated. The Special Housing units at Wallace Court will perhaps be increased from 18 to 28 in the coming year.

RODENT AND INSECT PEST CONTROL

The following inspections under Part 1 of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, were carried out during the year:—

Local Authority Premises	...	49
Dwelling Houses	... ..	878
Business Premises	... ..	506
Agricultural Premises	...	105

An apparent increase in the figures compared with the previous year is due to a change in the method of recording visits made. In fact, the total number of treatments (589) was slightly less than in 1967, but there was an increase in the amount of work carried out in business premises compared with private dwellings. 67 contracts for rodent control in business premises were in operation.

Seven ships were inspected on behalf of the Cowes Port Health Authority in connection with Rodent Control Certificates.

A serious infestation occurred in a block of dwelling-houses and rats were found to have entered the buildings through defective drains. Some years ago, a room in one of the houses was converted to a bathroom and for this purpose the drains were altered. There was no proper notification so that the work was not supervised by the Council's Building Inspector. A crude and defective connection had allowed rats to penetrate the cavity wall from whence they had uninterrupted access to a terrace of four houses.

Regular visits were made to the refuse tip at Briddlesford and treatments were carried out using warfarin and zinc phosphide. The lack of suitable covering material makes "controlled tipping" impossible and some degree of infesta-

tion by rodents and flies is therefore inevitable. This is a problem which faces many local authorities. Rodents and insects on tips can be reduced, if not eliminated, by pulverising refuse prior to tipping and it is hoped that the discussions currently taking place between Newport and Cowes Councils will lead to the provision of a pulverisation plant in the near future.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Two new Dennis Paxit IIIA Major continuous loading refuse collection vehicles were purchased in the spring of 1968 to replace two smaller worn out vehicles.

The following collection vehicles were in use at the end of the year.

- (a) Three 35/50 cu. yd. Dennis continuous loaders.
- (b) One 18/25 cu. yd. Dennis continuous loader (Reserve).
- (c) One 16 cu. yd. side loader rear tipping Ford Eagle.

The reserve is used to cover breakdowns, repairs and servicing of other vehicles, and sometimes to supplement them. This was the first time that a reserve vehicle was available and it has given most valuable service.

Refuse disposal is by means of crude tipping at Sandpit Plantation, Briddlesford, refuse being levelled and rolled with a 6½ ton Track-Marshall bulldozer.

Tipping space was almost entirely used up at the end of 1968 but negotiations were by then well advanced towards acquiring a lease of 7.3 acres of adjacent woodland for further tipping.

Although crude tipping is the cheapest method of disposal available to Newport, it is unsatisfactory for health reasons. With this in mind and the restricted tipping facilities at Cowes, further joint meetings took place with the Cowes Urban District Council on the question of building a joint refuse pulverisation plant. On 26th June 1968 both Councils received a report by G. Dowling and F. K. Aze on the subject after these officers had visited and investigated a number of plants to ascertain which could best meet the needs of the two towns.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The laying of soil and surface water sewers on private housing estates continued and sewers were adopted at Heathfield and Coppins Close.

Improvements were carried out to the automatic bar screen at the inlet to Fairlee Sewage Works which improved the general running of the works.

NOISE ABATEMENT

During the Spring and Summer months complaints were received from householders in the rural parts of the Borough about noise from gas operated guns for bird scaring. Each year the use of this apparatus gave rise to complaints, sometimes because of the noise level involved and at others because the guns have been used before dawn or after dusk. On occasions they have been thoughtlessly sited or equipped with erratic firing mechanism so that the interval between reports could not be reliably regulated.

While I have some sympathy with growers who naturally wish to protect their crops, householders are entitled to the protection afforded them in the Noise Abatement Act.

A complaint was received about a noise nuisance caused by refrigeration machinery in a butcher's shop. A member of the staff of the University of Southampton (Institute of Sound and Vibration Research) was employed by the Council in a consultant capacity and following measurements of the noise recommendations were made for reducing noise emission to an acceptable level. New, and comparatively quiet refrigeration machinery was eventually installed and the nuisance was abated.

Noise is largely subjective; complaints are often difficult to investigate and remedies not easy to prescribe. The amount of noise in everyday life is increasing.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1961

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health.

PART I OF THE ACT.

INSPECTIONS.

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	14	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	126	6	2	—
(iii) Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2	—	—	—
TOTAL	142	7	2	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Found	Remed'd	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	No. of Prosecutions
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	2	2	—	2	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORKERS.

Nature of work	SECTION 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Lampshades	44	—	—	—	—	—
Wearing apparel, Making, etc.	5	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	49	—	—	—	—	—

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Samples of milk were taken during the year from herds whose milk is retailed raw without heat treatment. These samples were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Portsmouth, for the presence of live Tubercle Bacilli.

Number of samples taken for T.B. during the year 1968	...	...	...	...	...	31
Number of samples found to be negative	...					31
Number of samples found to be positive	...					—
Number of samples in which Brucella Abortus was isolated	...	...	...	...		—
Number of void samples	...	...	...			—

